

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method ~~for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point of sale terminal~~, comprising:
 - determining a monetary value;
 - allocating a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value,
 - in which the ticket is associated with a predetermined price, and
 - in which the predetermined price is greater than the monetary value;
 - outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and
 - storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier.
2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, in which the step of determining a monetary value comprises:
 - determining a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.
3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets.
4. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets comprises:
 - selecting a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 3, in which the step of selecting the ticket from a plurality of tickets comprises:

determining a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value; and

selecting a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor connected to the storage device,

the storage device storing

a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

determine a monetary value;

allocate a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value,

in which the ticket is associated with a predetermined price, and

in which the predetermined price is greater than the monetary

value;

output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that identifies the allocated portion of the ticket; and

store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage device.

7. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 6, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:
determine a monetary value based on an amount of change due for a purchase.

8. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 6, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:
select the ticket from a plurality of tickets.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:
select a ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 8, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:
determine a set of tickets that each have an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value; and
select a ticket from the set of tickets which has a minimal unallocated portion.

11. (ORIGINAL) A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

- determining a monetary value;
- allocating a portion of each ticket of a plurality of tickets, the portion of each ticket being associated with a portion of the monetary value;
- outputting a plurality of ticket identifiers that identify the plurality of tickets and a plurality of portion identifiers that identify the allocated portions of each ticket; and
- storing the ticket identifiers and the portion identifiers.

12. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

- a storage device; and
- a processor connected to the storage device, the storage device storing
 - a program for controlling the processor; and
 - the processor operative with the program to:
 - determine a monetary value;
 - allocate a portion of each ticket of a plurality of tickets, the portion of each ticket being associated with a portion of the monetary value;
 - output a plurality of ticket identifiers that identify the plurality of tickets and a plurality of portion identifiers that identify the allocated portions of each ticket; and
 - store the ticket identifiers and the portion identifiers in the storage device.

13. (ORIGINAL) A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

- determining an amount of change due for a purchase;
- determining a monetary value based on the amount of change due;
- selecting a ticket from a plurality of tickets, the selected ticket having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value;
- allocating at least a portion of the selected ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value;
- outputting a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion identifier that identifies the allocated portion of the selected ticket; and
- storing the ticket identifier and the portion identifier.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13, in which the step of determining a monetary value comprises:

- rounding the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a rounded change amount; and
- setting the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 14, in which the step of rounding the amount of change due comprises:

- rounding down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a rounded-down change amount.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

- outputting an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

17. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor connected to the storage device,

the storage device storing

a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

determine an amount of change due for a purchase;

determine a monetary value based on the amount of change

due;

select a ticket from a plurality of tickets, the selected ticket

having an unallocated portion at least as great as the monetary value;

allocate at least a portion of the selected ticket, the portion

being based on the monetary value;

output a ticket identifier that identifies the ticket and a portion

identifier that identifies the allocated portion of the selected ticket; and

store the ticket identifier and the portion identifier in the storage

device.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 17, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

round the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a rounded change amount; and

set the monetary value equal to the rounded change amount.

19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 18, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

round down the amount of change due to a predetermined multiple, thereby generating a rounded-down change amount.

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 17, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

output an offer to exchange a fractional lottery ticket for change due.

21. (ORIGINAL) A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

receiving a ticket identifier that identifies a ticket and a portion identifier that identifies an allocated portion of the ticket;

determining a prize value of the ticket; and

determining a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

22. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

- a storage device; and

- a processor connected to the storage device,

- the storage device storing

- a program for controlling the processor; and

- the processor operative with the program to:

- receive a ticket identifier that identifies a ticket and a portion

- identifier that identifies an allocated portion of the ticket;

- determine a prize value of the ticket; and

- determine a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

23. (ORIGINAL) A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

- determining a monetary value;

- allocating at least a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value;

- determining a prize value of the ticket; and

- providing a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

24. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

- a storage device; and
- a processor connected to the storage device,
- the storage device storing
 - a program for controlling the processor; and
- the processor operative with the program to:
 - determine a monetary value;
 - allocate at least a portion of a ticket, the portion being based on the monetary value;
 - determine a prize value of the ticket; and
 - provide a portion of the prize value based on the allocated portion of the ticket.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

- maintaining a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion thereof,
 - each ticket having an identical ticket price,
 - in which a first ticket of the supply of tickets has a first unallocated portion,
 - in which a second ticket of the supply of tickets has a second unallocated portion, and
 - in which the second unallocated portion is less than the first unallocated portion; and
- acquiring an additional ticket.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket comprises:

counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first predetermined threshold; and

acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined threshold.

27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket comprises:

receiving an indication of a requested portion;

counting a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the requested portion; and

acquiring an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

28. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket comprises:

acquiring a predetermined number of additional tickets.

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25, further comprising:

calculating a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

30. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 29, in which the step of acquiring an additional ticket comprises:

acquiring an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined threshold.

31. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for facilitating the purchase of fractional lottery tickets using a point-of-sale terminal, comprising:

a storage device; and

a processor connected to the storage device,

the storage device storing

a program for controlling the processor; and

the processor operative with the program to:

maintain a supply of tickets, each ticket having an unallocated portion thereof,

each ticket having an identical ticket price,

in which a first ticket of the supply of tickets has a first unallocated portion,

in which a second ticket of the supply of tickets has a second unallocated portion, and

in which the second unallocated portion is less than the first unallocated portion; and

acquire an additional ticket.

32. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above a first predetermined threshold; and

acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the first predetermined threshold is below a second predetermined threshold.

33. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

receive an indication of a requested portion;

count a number of tickets having an unallocated portion that is above the requested portion; and

acquire an additional ticket if the number of tickets having unallocated portion that is above the requested portion is below a predetermined threshold.

34. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

acquire a predetermined number of additional tickets.

35. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 31, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

calculate a sum of the unallocated portions of the tickets.

36. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 35, in which the processor is further operative with the program to:

acquire an additional ticket if the calculated sum is below a predetermined threshold.